

Sept 24, 2018

Theresa Parsley
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
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Auburn, CA 95603

Submitted via email: theresa.parsley@sierranevada.ca.gov



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Re: Sierra Nevada Conservancy Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2024 Comments

Dear Ms. Parsley,

Since 1993 the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities. Our mission is to protect and restore the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while promoting sustainable communities. We are truly an alliance. There are over 45 conservation---focused Member Groups that are based or work in the 400-mile mountain range that is the Sierra Nevada region.

To assist our partners it is our mission to provide a wide range of resources to support their work and build the conservation capacity. One of the main ways we currently do this is via our largest program the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP). Here we place 28 full-time, Members with over 16 different conservation groups for a year of service. The Members are all technically trained college graduates. They get work done via on the ground restoration, monitoring, education/outreach, and volunteer engagement throughout watersheds in the Sierra. At the end of each program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for restoring 875 acres and educating 7,416 individuals. AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 3,600 volunteers who will be engaged in improving ecological function and increasing community stewardship of the watersheds. The federal investment of \$415,837 will be matched with \$425,511 and \$42,280 in public funding, and \$383,231 in private funding.

We along with many of our Member Groups and individual supporters are very interested in growing our partnership work with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Sierra Nevada Alliance and their conservation Member Group partners are pleased to see the direction the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is headed in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. The hope and main comment we would like to provide feedback on is that we hope the SNC will consider a more tightly knit partnership with the Alliance to help build further resource capacity throughout the Region. One option for doing so, could be to work with the Alliance to build a larger "Sierra Corps," to address the great ecological restoration needs throughout the range. This could either be an expanded AmeriCorps Program that we administer or a sister program that we create and run in tandem. A benefit to a sister program is that it would have more flexibility and less federal inefficiencies. We look forward to further discussing this partner concept and collaborating on ways to leverage and grow funding.

Sincerely,

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director

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